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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0544

May 19, 2016

The Honorable Peter Neffenger
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
601 12th St S
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Administrator Neffenger,

As a long time friend, I know you are working to solve the problem of the long wait times passengers are experiencing at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and at most major airports around the country when trying to get through passenger security check points.

For the consumer, it adds stress to vacation and work travel to wait in line for over two hours with the very real potential of missing the flight. We have been told these wait times will get worse as the summer travel season approaches.

I know that you and Secretary Johnson are well aware of this issue and have shifted \$34 million to hire and train 768 new agents. **While you are hiring more agents, TSA is losing at least 100 Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) per week. I am concerned that this loss will counteract any new hires.**

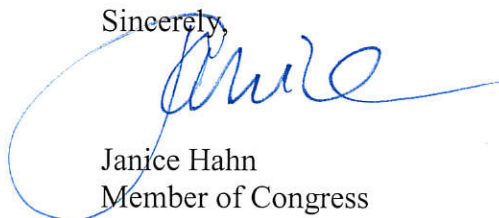
When I recently met with TSOs, they said TSOs are leaving because they do not receive the same treatment as other federal employees. For instance, TSOs do not have the same protections under the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act. I believe TSOs should be treated equally.

Also, we need to resolve the issue of the number of screeners as quickly as possible. One suggestion would be to replace the TSO "yellers" who provide instructions to passengers such as "take off your shoes" or "place your laptop on the belt" with airport employees and allow those TSOs to screen passengers.

I know that Congress has made your budget extremely tight. We need to be your partner to ensure that the flying public is protected in a manner that does not slow down travel.

I appreciate your service and friendship, and I am ready to help in any way I can to solve this problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janice", with a large, sweeping loop on the left side.

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress